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APR 1, 2004
ROOM 1A

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VIA HAND DELIVERY

Hon. Deborah Taylor Tate, Chairman
Tennessee Regulatory Authority
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37238

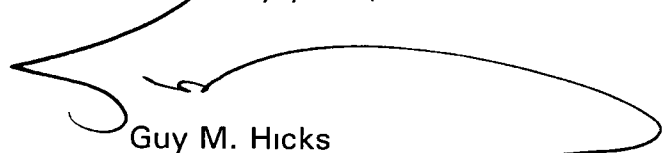
Re: *Joint Petition for Arbitration of NewSouth Communications Corp., et al of
an Interconnection Agreement with BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc
Pursuant to Section 252(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as
Amended*
Docket No. 04-00046

Dear Chairman Tate:

The Authority has requested that the parties file a joint issues matrix today. Unfortunately, a joint issues matrix is not available because counsel for the four CLECs provided a number of proposed changes to BellSouth yesterday, only one day before the joint issues matrix was due. Regional counsel for the CLECs informed BellSouth that he would file the matrix today with or without BellSouth's agreement. BellSouth has not had sufficient time to review these changes and will respond to the four CLECs as soon as reasonably possible.

BellSouth has no changes to its issue statements or position statements set forth in the issues matrix BellSouth filed with the Authority on March 8, 2004. Certain issues have been settled by the parties since March 8. BellSouth will submit a letter in the near future identifying the issues that have been settled.

Very truly yours,



Guy M. Hicks

GMH:mrd

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on April 1, 2004, a copy of the foregoing document was served on the following, via the method indicated:

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